

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3214

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment  
of a National Center for Social Work Research.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 1999

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (for himself and Mr. HUTCHINSON) introduced the following  
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for  
the establishment of a National Center for Social Work  
Research.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “National Center for  
5       Social Work Research Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

8               (1) Social workers focus on the improvement of  
9       individual and family functioning and the creation of  
10      effective health and mental health prevention and

1 treatment interventions in order for individuals to  
 2 become more productive members of society.

3 (2) Social workers provide front line prevention  
 4 and treatment services in the areas of school vio-  
 5 lence, aging, teen pregnancy, child abuse, domestic  
 6 violence, juvenile crime, and substance abuse, par-  
 7 ticularly in rural and underserved communities.

8 (3) Social workers are in a unique position to  
 9 provide valuable research information on these com-  
 10 plex social concerns, taking into account a wide  
 11 range of social, medical, economic and community  
 12 influences from an interdisciplinary, family-centered  
 13 and community-based approach.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR SO-**  
 15 **CIAL WORK RESEARCH.**

16 Title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
 17 281 et seq.), as amended by section 601 of the Depart-  
 18 ments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Edu-  
 19 cation, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (as  
 20 contained in section 101(f) of division A of Public Law  
 21 105–277; 112 Stat. 2681-387), is amended—

22 (1) in section 401(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 281(b)(2)),  
 23 by adding at the end the following:

24 “(G) The National Center for Social Work Re-  
 25 search.”; and

1           (2) in part E (42 U.S.C. 287 et seq.), by add-  
2           ing at the end the following:

3       “Subpart 6—National Center for Social Work Research

4       **“SEC. 485G. PURPOSE OF CENTER.**

5           “The general purpose of the National Center for So-  
6       cial Work Research (referred to in this subpart as the  
7       ‘Center’) is the conduct and support of, and dissemination  
8       of targeted research on social work methods and outcomes  
9       related to problems of significant social concern. The Cen-  
10      ter shall promote research and training designed to inform  
11      social work practice, thus increasing the knowledge base  
12      which promotes a healthier America. In addition, the Cen-  
13      ter shall provide policymakers with empirically-based re-  
14      search information to better understand complex social  
15      issues and make informed funding decisions about service  
16      effectiveness and cost efficiency.

17      **“SEC. 485H. SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.**

18           “(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose de-  
19      scribed in section 485G, the Director of the Center may  
20      provide research training and instruction and establish, in  
21      the Center and in other nonprofit institutions, research  
22      traineeships and fellowships in the study and investigation  
23      of the prevention of disease, health promotion, the associa-  
24      tion of socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, age, and  
25      geographical location and health, the social work care of

1 persons with and families of individuals with acute and  
2 chronic illnesses, child abuse, neglect, and youth violence,  
3 and child and family care to address problems of signifi-  
4 cant social concern especially underserved populations and  
5 underserved geographical areas.

6 “(b) STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES.—The Director of  
7 the Center may provide individuals receiving training and  
8 instruction or traineeships or fellowships under subsection  
9 (a) with such stipends and allowances (including amounts  
10 for travel and subsistence and dependency allowances) as  
11 the Director determines necessary.

12 “(c) GRANTS.—The Director of the Center may make  
13 grants to nonprofit institutions to provide training and in-  
14 struction and traineeships and fellowships under sub-  
15 section (a).

16 **“SEC. 485I. ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

17 “(a) DUTIES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
19 lish an advisory council for the Center that shall ad-  
20 vise, assist, consult with, and make recommenda-  
21 tions to the Secretary and the Director of the Center  
22 on matters related to the activities carried out by  
23 and through the Center and the policies with respect  
24 to such activities.

1           “(2) GIFTS.—The advisory council for the Cen-  
2           ter may recommend to the Secretary the acceptance,  
3           in accordance with section 231, of conditional gifts  
4           for study, investigations, and research and for the  
5           acquisition of grounds or construction, equipment, or  
6           maintenance of facilities for the Center.

7           “(3) OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.—The  
8           advisory council for the Center—

9                   “(A)(i) may make recommendations to the  
10           Director of the Center with respect to research  
11           to be conducted by the Center;

12                   “(ii) may review applications for grants  
13           and cooperative agreements for research or  
14           training and recommend for approval applica-  
15           tions for projects that demonstrate the prob-  
16           ability of making valuable contributions to  
17           human knowledge; and

18                   “(iii) may review any grant, contract, or  
19           cooperative agreement proposed to be made or  
20           entered into by the Center;

21                   “(B) may collect, by correspondence or by  
22           personal investigation, information relating to  
23           studies that are being carried out in the United  
24           States or any other country; and

1           “(C) may appoint subcommittees and con-  
2           vene workshops and conferences.

3           “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The advisory council shall  
5           be composed of the ex officio members described in  
6           paragraph (2) and not more than 18 individuals to  
7           be appointed by the Secretary under paragraph (3).

8           “(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The ex officio  
9           members of the advisory council shall include—

10           “(A) the Secretary of Health and Human  
11           Services, the Director of NIH, the Director of  
12           the Center, the Chief Social Work Officer of the  
13           Veterans’ Administration, the Assistant Sec-  
14           retary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Asso-  
15           ciate Director of Prevention Research at the  
16           National Institute of Mental Health, the Direc-  
17           tor of the Division of Epidemiology and Serv-  
18           ices Research, the Assistant Secretary of  
19           Health and Human Services for the Adminis-  
20           tration for Children and Families, the Assistant  
21           Secretary of Education for the Office of Edu-  
22           cational Research and Improvement, the Assist-  
23           ant Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-  
24           ment for Community Planning and Develop-  
25           ment, and the Assistant Attorney General for

1 Office of Justice Programs (or the designees of  
2 such officers); and

3 “(B) such additional officers or employees  
4 of the United States as the Secretary deter-  
5 mines necessary for the advisory council to ef-  
6 fectively carry out its functions.

7 “(3) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—The Secretary  
8 shall appoint not to exceed 18 individuals to the ad-  
9 visory council, of which—

10 “(A) not more than two-thirds of such in-  
11 dividual shall be appointed from among the  
12 leading representatives of the health and sci-  
13 entific disciplines (including public health and  
14 the behavioral or social sciences) relevant to the  
15 activities of the Center, and at least 7 such in-  
16 dividuals shall be professional social workers  
17 who are recognized experts in the area of clin-  
18 ical practice, education, policy, or research; and

19 “(B) not more than one-third of such indi-  
20 viduals shall be appointed from the general  
21 public and shall include leaders in fields of pub-  
22 lic policy, law, health policy, economics, and  
23 management.

24 The Secretary shall make appointments to the advi-  
25 sory council in such a manner as to ensure that the

1 terms of the members do not all expire in the same  
2 year.

3 “(4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the advi-  
4 sory council who are officers or employees of the  
5 United States shall not receive any compensation for  
6 service on the advisory council. The remaining mem-  
7 bers shall receive, for each day (including travel  
8 time) they are engaged in the performance of the  
9 functions of the advisory council, compensation at  
10 rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual  
11 rate in effect for an individual at grade GS–18 of  
12 the General Schedule.

13 “(c) TERMS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of an in-  
15 dividual appointed to the advisory council under sub-  
16 section (b)(3) shall be 4 years, except that any indi-  
17 vidual appointed to fill a vacancy on the advisory  
18 council shall serve for the remainder of the unex-  
19 pired term. A member may serve after the expiration  
20 of the member’s term until a successor has been ap-  
21 pointed.

22 “(2) REAPPOINTMENTS.—A member of the ad-  
23 visory council who has been appointed under sub-  
24 section (b)(3) for a term of 4 years may not be re-  
25 appointed to the advisory council prior to the expira-

1       tion of the 2-year period beginning on the date on  
2       which the prior term expired.

3               “(3) VACANCY.—If a vacancy occurs on the ad-  
4       visory council among the members under subsection  
5       (b)(3), the Secretary shall make an appointment to  
6       fill that vacancy not later than 90 days after the  
7       date on which the vacancy occurs.

8               “(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the advi-  
9       sory council shall be selected by the Secretary from among  
10      the members appointed under subsection (b)(3), except  
11      that the Secretary may select the Director of the Center  
12      to be the chairperson of the advisory council. The term  
13      of office of the chairperson shall be 2 years.

14              “(e) MEETINGS.—The advisory council shall meet at  
15      the call of the chairperson or upon the request of the Di-  
16      rector of the Center, but not less than 3 times each fiscal  
17      year. The location of the meetings of the advisory council  
18      shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Cen-  
19      ter.

20              “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The Director of  
21      the Center shall designate a member of the staff of the  
22      Center to serve as the executive secretary of the advisory  
23      council. The Director of the Center shall make available  
24      to the advisory council such staff, information, and other  
25      assistance as the council may require to carry out its func-

1 tions. The Director of the Center shall provide orientation  
 2 and training for new members of the advisory council to  
 3 provide such members with such information and training  
 4 as may be appropriate for their effective participation in  
 5 the functions of the advisory council.

6 “(g) COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The ad-  
 7 visory council may prepare, for inclusion in the biennial  
 8 report under section 485J—

9 “(1) comments with respect to the activities of  
 10 the advisory council in the fiscal years for which the  
 11 report is prepared;

12 “(2) comments on the progress of the Center in  
 13 meeting its objectives; and

14 “(3) recommendations with respect to the fu-  
 15 ture direction and program and policy emphasis of  
 16 the center.

17 The advisory council may prepare such additional reports  
 18 as it may determine appropriate.

19 **“SEC. 485J. BIENNIAL REPORT.**

20 “The Director of the Center, after consultation with  
 21 the advisory council for the Center, shall prepare for inclu-  
 22 sion in the biennial report under section 403, a biennial  
 23 report that shall consist of a description of the activities  
 24 of the Center and program policies of the Director of the  
 25 Center in the fiscal years for which the report is prepared.

1 The Director of the Center may prepare such additional  
2 reports as the Director determines appropriate. The Di-  
3 rector of the Center shall provide the advisory council of  
4 the Center an opportunity for the submission of the writ-  
5 ten comments described in section 485I(g).

6 **“SEC. 485K. QUARTERLY REPORT.**

7       “The Director of the Center shall prepare a quarterly  
8 report to Congress with a summary of findings and policy  
9 implications from research conducted or supported  
10 through the Center.”.

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